

Message Text

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S/S-0:DROBINSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178114

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LA PAZ 5533 ACTION STATE JULY 13.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5533

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: ELECTORAL FRAUD: THE DEFENSES COLLAPSE

REF: LA PAZ 5497

1. ELECTORAL COURT PRESIDENT MANTILLA HAS NOW INDICATED
TO THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR THAT HE IS IN A STATE OF
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PHYSICAL (AND MAYBE MORAL) COLLAPSE AND UNABLE TO SORT
OUT THE FRAUDULENT RETURNS WITH WHICH THE COURT IS
CONFRONTED. THE NEW RAW RETURNS FROM POTOSI WHICH MANTILLA
HAS RELEASED WITHOUT REVIEW APPEAR RIGGED BY THE
GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED DEPARTMENTAL COURT IN POTOSI. A
CLEANED-UP RESULT COULD WELL GIVE BOTH LA PAZ AND POTOSI
TO HERNAN SILES, SENDING THE ELECTION INTO THE CONGRESS.

YESTERDAY'S PACT BETWEEN DILES, PAZ AND BERNAL HAS PROBABLY MADE THAT RESULT UNACCEPTABLE TO THE MILITARY (AND PEREDA) SINCE IT IMPLIES A THREE-PARTY COALITION IN THE CONGRESS WHICH COULD ELECT SILES PRESIDENT--AND THE ARMY LEADERSHIP NOW CONSIDERS SILES THEIR ENEMY.

2. THERE IS AN OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT ALL FOUR PARTIES MIGHT URGE MANTILLA TO CLEAN UP THE RESULT IF THIS WOULD LEAD TO OPEN COALITION NEGOTIATIONS AND NOT A CERTAINTY OF SILES AS PRESIDENT. THEREFORE, THE PHOENIX OF BOLIVIAN POLITICS, VICTOR PAZ, COULD INITIATE THIS PROCESS BY IMPLYING A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ALL COALITION POSSIBILITIES IF THE ELECTION RETURNS ARE CLEANED UP. AS OF NOW, HOWEVER, PAZ APPEARS TO BE SLAMMING THE DOOR. HE REFUSES TO TALK TO PEREDA WHO HAS BEEN DESPERATELY SEEKING NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAZ.

3. BOTH THE PEREDA FORCES AND LUIS ADOLFO SILES, APPARENTLY ON BEHALF OF SILES ZUAZO, HAVE ASKED ME HOW I THINK THE MESS SHOULD BE CLEANED UP. I HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ALL FOUR POLITICAL PARTIES STRONGLY APPEAL TO MANTILLA TO ANNUL ALL QUESTIONABLE BALLOTS AND THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE COUNT. MANTILLA DOES NOT NOW FEEL HE HAS THE BACKING NECESSARY TO CARRY THROUGH THIS BRUISING TASK. THIS COURSE IS NOW ONLY AN OUTSIDE CHANCE.

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4. IF PEREDA'S WIN BY 50 PLUS PERCENT IS AUTHENTICATED, HE IS NOT GOING TO HAVE ADEQUATE AUTHORITY TO GOVERN WITHOUT REPRESSION. HE WILL PROBABLY, THEREFORE, SEEK A COALITION WITH PAZ OR BERNAL OR BOTH, EVEN IF HE GETS ELECTED DIRECTLY. SUCH A COALITION, WHILE NOT A SHINING RESULT, WOULD PRODUCE A BETTER GOVERNMENT AND MOREMORE STABLE GOVERNING ENVIROMENT THANT PEREDA ALONE. BOEKER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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